



JIM GIBBONS
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
(775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

KENNETH E. MAYER
Director

RICHARD L. HASKINS II
Deputy Director

August 26, 2009

Mr. James B. Dalton, President
Metropolis Water Irrigation District
HC 60, Box 130
Wells, NV 89835

Re: Bishop Creek Dam Reconstruction

Dear Mr. Dyer:

This letter is to confirm the Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) support for the reconstruction of Bishop Creek Dam north of Wells as expressed at our meeting of August 6.

It is our understanding that financial support for the reconstruction comes with a requirement that some recreational value be attained in addition to the apparent value as an irrigation reservoir. In order for the resulting reservoir to have substantial value as a recreational fishery, a commitment to a 20 feet deep minimum pool (~1,700 acre feet) is necessary. The expectation is that most years, the water level would remain above the minimum pool level. A binding agreement securing the minimum pool and public access would be a requisite.

At this time, it is thought that water quality characteristics at Bishop Creek Reservoir would be conducive to the establishment of a warmwater fishery made up of crappie, catfish and black bass. NDOW would acquire and stock these species, relying on natural reproduction to expand and maintain the fishery. Over time, NDOW would consider contributing to the construction costs for recreation facilities commensurate with the amount of actual angler and boating use. As we have no history with this reservoir, it is difficult to determine what level of facilities would be needed.

As Nevada is the driest state in the nation, the potential for new sport fisheries does not come along very often. NDOW remains committed to increasing recreational fishing opportunities within the state, and we look forward to a cooperative working relationship with the Metropolis Water Irrigation District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Haskins II", with a horizontal line underneath.

Richard L. Haskins II
Deputy Director

JE:RH:ss
cc: Dan L. Dyer
John Elliott